

April 6-7,
2000

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met on April 6 and 7 in St. John's. This edition of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussion that occurred at this meeting. For further information on any of these issues, please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities

An updated copy of priorities for 1999-2000 was provided to Provincial Executive which included items actioned or completed to date. As indicated in previous issues of Executive Notes, the Association Priorities for this year include curriculum issues, collective bargaining preparations, classroom issues, and membership involvement. For a detailed report on each priority please contact your Provincial Executive Member. For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.



Ministerial Panel on the Delivery of Education in the Classroom

Provincial Executive was briefed relative to the Report from the Ministerial Panel on the Delivery of Education in the Classroom. While a number of NLTA's concerns have been incorporated into the recommendations from the Panel, there remain several areas of concern that need to be addressed. A detailed review of the Report will be compiled for a response to government. This review will include a commentary on each recommendation of the Report. Provincial Executive will meet again on May 4 and 5 to finalize the analysis and response. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Province-Wide Voting

At the time of the Provincial Executive meeting the result of the poll re: province-wide voting was still being tabulated. Information has since been forwarded to Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive regarding the poll results. For further information contact Winston Carter, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Province-wide Voting, your Branch President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining

The Collective Bargaining Committee has continued collecting information from teachers re: issues and concerns for consideration during the development of the opening proposals.

The following recommendations from the committee were approved by Provincial Executive:

- A series of 12 Collective Bargaining focus groups will be held throughout the province during the spring of 2000.
- The focus groups will be held in the following centers: Labrador City, Goose Bay,

Plum Point, Deer Lake, Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander, Clarenville, Marystown, Bay Roberts, and St. John's (2).

- Each forum will be comprised of 10-12 members randomly selected from schools within a reasonable driving distance of the forum location to allow the participants to commute to and from the forum without necessitating any overnight stay.

The outcome from the discussions at the Collective Bargaining Forums will be provided to the Collective Bargaining Committee for its consideration in developing the opening proposals.

The Collective Bargaining Committee is still collecting information and encourages all teachers who have not already done so, to complete and forward a "Collective Bargaining Submission Form" as soon as possible. For further information please contact Fred Douglas, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee, or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

School Administrator Concerns

Several of the issues in this area have been addressed in the Ministerial Report on the Delivery of Education in the Classroom (e.g. administrator allocations, secretarial and technical support). A joint sub-committee of NLTA, NLSBA and the Department of Education is working to formulate a job description for administrators. A draft has been completed and copies have been distributed to the parties for reaction. A deadline of May 31 has been set to allow for feedback or changes and a final version will be completed at that time. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Teacher Certification

The Provincial Teacher Certification Committee met in March to review proposed amendments to Section 15 of the Teacher Certification Regulations under the Teacher Training Act. This legislation change will enable the application of the Labor Mobility Agreement which affects teachers moving from province to province.

The Committee also had initial discussions on the review of the Teacher Certification Regulations. A list of "Proposed Basic Principles" was circulated for the committee to review and come back to the next meeting with recommendations and areas for discussion. The committee is scheduled to meet again on April 13. For further information contact Winston Carter, Vice-President, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

School Construction Committee

A second meeting of this ad hoc committee took place on March 24 and 25. It was the consensus of this committee that it should focus its attention on the development of an NLTA position statement or policy statement on school construction guidelines. This statement would be designed to reflect the needs and concerns of both teachers and students during the planning, construction and/or renovation of schools. It is expected that a draft of this policy will be available for presentation to Provincial Executive at the June meeting. For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Workload Committee

This Committee, established under Schedule P of the Collective Agreement, has completed a draft set of terms of reference for a study of Teacher Workload. The draft has been forwarded to the School Boards Association and the Department of Education, as well as NLTA. These groups have been asked to review the terms of reference and provide a response. Under Schedule P, the parties have agreed to conduct a study of teacher workload and where the parties agree on the terms of reference, they are to share in the cost of the study. For further information contact Wayne Lee, Chair, Workload Committee, or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

BUSINESS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Communications/Political Action Committee

The Federation of School Councils, School Administrators Council, School Districts, Technology Program Specialists, Technology Education Special Interest Council, and others as deemed appropriate will be alerted to the reasons for NLTA's opposition to YNN.

The President of NLTA will make personal contact in any way he feels appropriate with any schools that have signed with YNN to explain NLTA's position re: commercialization in the classroom. For further information contact Fred Wood, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Curriculum Committee

New policies regarding programs and curricula from corporate sources have been approved for incorporation into NLTA policy.

A questionnaire on the Reinstatement of Public Examinations will be distributed to NLTA School Representatives at the Senior High School level and these School Representatives will be asked to coordinate the completion of the questionnaires with their entire staffs.

A newly developed policy on Criterion Referenced Testing, and a policy on Program Implementation Specialists were accepted and will be incorporated into NLTA policy. For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, NLTA Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.



Group Insurance

Guidelines for Health Insurance (effective September 2000) in the Health Option of the NLTA Group Insurance Program Booklet will be changed to reflect amendments to substitute teacher eligibility. For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Group Insurance Trustees, or Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Table Officers

NLTA will be sending delegates to the Canadian Teachers' Federation Annual General Meeting in Charlottetown in July. The delegates will be President Fred Andrews, Vice-President Winston Carter, and Table Officers Ted Murphy and Fred Douglas. The Executive Director will also attend as an alternate. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for the evening of May 4 and all day on May 5. This is a special meeting called for the purpose of finalizing NLTA's response to the Report from the Ministerial Panel on the Delivery of Education in the Classroom.



The next regular meeting of the Executive will be held on June 9-10, 2000. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

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